

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGUI 01636 011255Z

42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /024 W
----- 067957

R 011037Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7573

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 1636

FOR ASS'T SECRETARY SCHAUFFLE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CT, US
SUBJECT: AIDSAT DEMONSTRATION - POLITICAL IMPACT

1. IN THE MIDST OF YOUR MANY PREOCCUPATIONS I HESITATE TO TROUBLE YOU WITH CAR MATTERS. HOWEVER, AS YOU KNOW ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 6 WE WILL BE ORGANIZING THE AIDSAT DEMONSTRATION IN BANGUI, WITH, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THE PARTICIPATION OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA AND MOST MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT. IN THIS CORNER OF AFRICA, WHERE SYMBOLIC GESTURES COUNT FOR SO MUCH, AIDSAT PROVIDES US WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO DEMONSTRATE THE TRIUMPHS OF OUR TECHNOLOGY AND OUR COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO TO SHOW UNEQUIVOCALLY OUR POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE CAR. IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL IN ARRANGING HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO THE CAR, CERTAINLY NOT IN COMPARISON TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE MANAGED MINISTERIAL LEVEL VISITS OR VISITS AT THE LEVEL OF HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OR HEAD OF STATE. AIDSAT PROVIDES US AN OPPORTUNITY PARTIALLY TO REMEDY THIS LACK OF ATTENTION.

2. SINCE WE ASSUME THAT BOKASSA HIMSELF WILL PARTICIPATE IN CAR PORTION OF PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF THERE COULD BE HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION AT US END. ALTHOUGH DEMONSTRATION BEGINS WITH A RECORDED MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, THE MESSAGE IS NOT DIRECTLY PITCHED TO OUR INTERESTS IN CAR. SOME FORM OF SUPPLEMENTAL POLITICAL INPUT WOULD THUS BE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGUI 01636 011255Z

HIGHLY DESIRABLE. LIVE PARTICIPATION BY A SENIOR US OFFICIAL

WOULD HAVE GREATEST EFFECT. SINCE WE WOULD BE USING THE AID-SAT MECHANISM TO MAKE WHAT WOULD AMOUNT TO AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BANGUI AT LITTLE COST TO OURSELVES. I RECOGNIZE THE MANY PROBLEMS WHICH THIS SUGGESTION MAY POSE, GIVEN THE SCHEDULE OF SENIOR USG OFFICIALS AND THE PRESSURES OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. NONETHELESS A PERSONAL GESTURE TO BOKASSA MADE IN PUBLIC AND IN THE PRESENCE OF MOST OF THE POLITICAL ELITE OF THE CAR WOULD COUNT FOR MORE THAN ANY NUMBER OF DEMARCHES OR LETTERS OF SUPPORT. BOKASSA REMAINS SYMPATHETIC TO OUR INTERESTS IN AFRICA, AND ELSEWHERE, AND THIS FACT MERITS SOME RECOGNITION ON OUR PART. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ARRANGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AIDSAT DEMONSTRATION, I KNOW THIS FACT WOULD BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED. PARTICULARLY IF YOU WERE ABLE TO CONVEY A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO BOKASSA FROM THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY IN FRENCH.

3. IF THESE IDEAS COMMEND THEMSELVES TO YOU WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCH A MESSAGE. QUANTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGUI01636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760331-1205
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609103/aaaadkqb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIDSAT DEMONSTRATION - POLITICAL IMPACT
TAGS: PFOR, CT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006